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In the Works

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In The Works is a monthly newsletter providing Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S) news and regulatory updates. The newsletter is provided by Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc. of Plainville, Connecticut. In this Issue you will find links to the following articles:

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut DEEP EnCon Officers Trained to Administer Narcan.

Officers will Help Combat III Effects of Opioids Drug Abuse

Officers from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Environmental Conservation (EnCon) police are being trained to administer Naloxone Hydrochloride, commonly known as Narcan, to join the state's effort to combat the tragedy of people losing their lives from overdosing on opioids, including street drugs such as heroin or prescription painkillers such as OxyContin.

“Our EnCon officers are pleased to join in the initiative to help combat the alarming growth of heroin and prescription drug abuse,” said Col. Kyle Overturf, the head of the EnCon police unit at DEEP. “Our officers are positioned to play an active part in assisting people whose lives are threatened by a drug overdose. You will find EnCon officers in action all across Connecticut, as we provide a law enforcement presence in state parks and on state lands as well as enforcing fish and game regulations.”

Fifty EnCon officers participated in a training program administered by the Connecticut State Police. The state Department of Public Health is providing the Narcan kits that the EnCon officers will carry.

Multi-Faceted State Effort to Address Overdose Issue

At the direction of Governor Dannel P. Malloy, state agencies in Connecticut has been actively involved in efforts to combat deaths from overdoses, including rapidly linking opiate addicted individuals to medication-assisted treatment like Methadone, redoubling efforts to educate the public on the dangers of prescription drugs and heroin, and implementing widespread drug take-back days and prescription drug drop boxes to safely dispose of unneeded medication.

Some of the Specific Initiatives Include:

- With their training, EnCon officers join the ranks of Connecticut State Police, who have also been trained to administer Narcan. State Police are credited with saving the lives of 100 people who had overdosed in just the two years since they conducted their training.
- A joint effort of several state agencies – Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (including the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and Fire Services Academies), the DPH, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Department of Correction - has also provided classes on the administration of Narcan to local police and fire departments in several municipalities across the state.
- DPH has distributed approximately 9,200 overdose prevention kits since 2014 through that agency's overdose prevention, education, and naloxone access campaign, known as Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone (OPEN) Access CT.
- The state's Department of Consumer Protection has developed a new, interactive online map that allows consumers to locate pharmacies across the state where pharmacist are certified to proscribe Narcan.

The work to increase accessibility to Narcan has been aided by several public acts signed into law by Governor Malloy.

Among them are:

- Public Act 14-61 , authorizing anyone to administer an opioid antagonist such as Narcan to a person he or she believes, in good faith, is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose. Under prior law, only licensed health care practitioners were allowed to administer the medication without being civilly or criminally liable for the action.
- Public Act 12-159 , allowing prescribers to provide Narcan prescriptions to individuals in close contact with a person struggling with opioid addiction.

Background on EnCon Police

DEEP EnCon Police trace their history back to the state's first "Special Game Protectors" who were appointed in 1895. EnCon Police are responsible for protecting the public and Connecticut's natural resources through public education and outreach, prevention of crime and accidents and the enforcement of laws and regulations.

All EnCon officers are fully certified law enforcement officials with full arrest powers. In addition to traditional law enforcement duties, they have special responsibilities for protecting Connecticut's natural resources and wildlife.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Drought Management Team: Drought Update

On August 18, 2016, the New Hampshire Drought Management Team (DMT) held its second meeting of the summer at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). State Climatologist, Mary Stampone, gave a briefing on the latest drought conditions, which indicated an increase in drought intensity across southeastern parts of the state. In accordance with the latest USGS Drought Monitor, portions of Rockingham County and Hillsborough County have risen to the extreme drought classification, the first time New Hampshire has

received the extreme drought designation since the Drought Monitor's inception in 2000. Moderate and severe drought conditions persist in the remaining southern portion of the state, while abnormally dry conditions continue through the central and northeast sections of the state. Also, on August 18, 2016, the NOAA Climate Prediction Center extended the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook forecast through the end of November. The forecast indicates that the drought will persist through this period.

George Hamilton of the UNH Cooperative Extension, and Bruce Cilley of the USDA, provided an update on farmers in the state. While farmers are being impacted by the drought, they are reportedly working extremely hard to maintain their crop yields and are harvesting plenty of fruits and vegetables. Mr. Hamilton stated "If there is ever an important time to support our local farmers, it is now. Visiting local farmers markets and local vegetable stands will help farmers get through this difficult season and succeed in future seasons."

Drinking water supplies were also discussed during the meeting. Currently, 115 community water systems and three towns are implementing water restrictions and bans and many individuals are conserving water voluntarily. While the public has done a good job of adhering to voluntary water restrictions and bans, some public water suppliers, such as Portsmouth Water Works, are asking their communities to do more and are transitioning to mandatory water restrictions. NHDES is also asking the public to continue to conserve where they can and, in drought areas particularly, to refrain from using water outdoors except for hand watering of vegetable gardens and newly planted growth. The priority continues to be on protecting water supplies now to avoid or delay potential water shortage emergencies in the future.

The DMT will likely meet again in mid-September.

Parallel to the work of the DMT, Governor Hassan coordinated with federal, state and local officials to assess how drought has impacted the agriculture industry and on August 5, 2016, requested a Secretarial Drought Disaster Designation from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since then, Merrimack, Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties reached the D3, Extreme Drought designation, fast-tracking Governor Hassan's request and automatically granting the request for the D3-designated and contiguous counties.

See www.governor.nh.gov/media/news/2016/pr-2016-08-05-drought.htm and www.fsa.usda.gov/index.

For updates on drought conditions and outdoor water use restrictions, water efficiency tips, and drought guidance for municipalities, public water systems, and homeowners, visit www.des.nh.gov and scroll through the "A-Z List" to the "Drought Management Program."

The DMT includes federal, state, municipal, environmental, recreational, business and industry officials, and is coordinated by NHDES. The DMT provides water users, municipalities and the public with information about drought conditions and impacts.

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Baker-Polito Administration Awards Nearly \$1.6 Million in 217 Municipalities for Recycling Efforts

Funds Invested Will Maximize Recycling, Composting and Waste Reduction Efforts

The Massachusetts Baker-Polito Administration recently announced nearly \$1.6 million in Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grants for 217 municipalities and regional solid waste districts to help maximize their recycling, composting and waste reduction programs.

“These recycling grants will help the Commonwealth’s communities continue their work of responsibly protecting our natural resources and the public health,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “The success we achieve reducing the waste stream across Massachusetts begins at the local level, and I am proud we are able to help communities make critical investments in their recycling programs.”

Out of 217 communities to receive awards in the first round of SMRP, 166 communities qualified for the “Recycling Dividends Program” (RDP) and will receive payments ranging from \$1,200 to \$66,000, for a total of \$1.39 million statewide. The RDP recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize materials reuse and recycling, as well as waste reduction. Communities that earn RDP payments must reinvest the funds in their recycling programs for things such as new recycling bins or carts, public education and outreach campaigns, collection of hard-to-recycle items and the establishment of recycling programs in schools, municipal buildings and other public spaces.

“Municipalities that cut the waste stream and increase recycling and composting are helping to build a stronger economy and a healthier environment,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton. “The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to reducing waste disposal by 30 percent below 2008 levels, which equates to about 2 million tons per year, and these community recycling grants will ensure we reach our goals.”

As part of the SMRP, all 205 municipalities that also applied for “Small-Scale Initiative Grants” were awarded funding. These population-based grants range from \$500 to \$2,000 each and help communities purchase modest but critical recycling materials and outreach tools needed to sustain their existing recycling program or to facilitate new, low-cost initiatives. Both of these SMRP programs are administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

The number of municipalities that qualified for the RDP increased 21 percent over last year and the value of the awards also increased. In this round, four municipalities will receive payments in excess of \$50,000: New Bedford at \$66,000; Cambridge and Worcester at \$60,000 each; and Springfield at \$54,000.

The RDP was rolled out in 2014 as the newest initiative under MassDEP’s Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, which was created by the Green Communities Act of 2008. The Act requires that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates (WECs) be directed to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. SMRP has invested more than \$20 million in recycling programs since 2010.

See a list of the SMRP grant awards here:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/grants/smrp-grants.html#5>